DECLASSIFIED PA/HO Department of State E.O. 12958, as amended September 6, 2007

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E.O. 12968, Sec. 3.4

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CONCIDENT

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73-60 ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 INRE-00 ASR-01 SCS-03 AID-20

FBO-01 NIC-01 M-03 OC-06 OPR-02 T-03 SCA-01 A-01

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDO NIACT IMMEDIATE 6692

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

COMNAVTRACOM MOROCCO

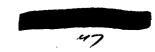
RABAT 3761

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF KING HASSAN:
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

REF: RABAT 3746.

I. WE HAVE SEEN THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE THE FAILURE OF ONE MORE DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE KING HASSAN FROM LEADERSHIP OF MOROCCO. KING HAS HAD WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS MIRACULOUS ESCAPE. IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW TRAINED FIGHTER PILOT, FLYING AS ESCORT, COULD HAVE FAILED TO SHOOT DOWN KING'S PLANE, ALTHOUGH ONE OF OUR MUSLO STAFF HAS NOTED THAT F-5 FIGHTER PILOTS HAVE NOT HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO





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PRACTICE WITH LIVE AMMUNITION SINCE ATTEMPTED COUP AT SKHIRAT LAST YEAR.

2. IT NOW EVIDENT THAT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT CARRIED OUT BY SMALL ELITE GROUP OF FIGHTER PILOTS WITH SUPPORT AT LEAST SOME ATR FORCE ENLISTED MEN. LACK OF EVIDENCE THUS FAR OF ANY COLLUSION WITH ANY OTHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN ELEMENTS SUGGESTS F-5 SQUADRONS ONLY SELF-ASSIGNED MISSION WAS TO REMOVE KING. PRESUMABLY THEY GAMBLED THAT THE EFFECTIVE REMOVAL OF KING WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY REST OF MILITARY, INCLUDING OUFKIR, AND COUNTRY AT LARGE. (IT APPEARS THAT OUFKIR'S CLOSE FRIEND AMEKRANE, WHO HAS REPORTEDLY LANDED IN GIBRALTAR, WAS IN ON PLOT: RABAT 3760).

GAMBLE WAS LOST, AND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL HOW KING WILL REACT TO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. THING CERTAIN. FACT THAT US NAVY HAS PRESENCE AT KENITRA AND THE US AIR FORCE TRAINED MOROCCAN F-5 FIGHTER SQUADRON IS LOST ON NO ONE AND COULD LIKELY HAVE EFFECT ON US MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. ALREADY EMPHASIZED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO US INVOLVEMENT - EVEN UNWITTING - IN WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY ALL MOROCCAN AFFAIR. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT I AM SEEKING SEE BENHIMA AGAIN TONIGHT TO FORMALLY CONVEY OUR SHOCK AND DISMAY AT ANY SUGGESTION THAT AMERICANS COULD IN ANY WAY BE INVOLVED IN AN ACTIVITY THREATENING THE SECURITY OF THE KING AND TO ASK GOM TO ACT PROMPTLY TO PREVENT FURTHER CIRCULATION SUCH RUMORS. GDS DE TARR

